

Ag Video Conference Notes
December 19, 2007
9 a.m.

Present: Tom McCarthy, Gene Tinker, Eric Wiklund, Cindy Martens, Ken Hessenius, Paul Petitti, Don Cunningham, Dan Olson, Josh Sobaski, Jeannie Greiner, Ted Petersen, Bob Palla, Karen Grimes, Claire Hruby and Randy Clark

AFO Database Update:

The new database will be web accessible to the public in many areas. The database work group will be having a meeting with several stakeholder groups to hear what they would like to have on the database and what information they would like to be able to retrieve. The AFO group needs the database to be stand alone for our specific needs. There will be a compliance and enforcement database, as well as an Iowa One Stop database that will also contain AFO information. AFO staff should submit ideas for specific things they want the AFO database to do or to contain. Now is the time to let the work group know what staff wants and needs. In particular, please be specific as to what reports you'd like it to run or search capabilities that you'd like to see. (Ex. search for all sites in Section 1, Herdland Township, Clay County) Your ideas should be submitted ASAP to Claire Hruby, Cindy Martens or Ken Hessenius. Wants and needs related to AA work can be submitted to Londa Witte.

Upcoming meetings and training:

MAC Satellite training January 4th

Pork Congress January 23-24, 2008. Dan O. is working the 23rd and Jeff P. is working on the 24th. Gene will be present both days. Ted P. will be helping to tear down the booth.

RUSLE II training March 19th in either Carroll or Ames

ISU Conference Mitigating Air Emissions from Animal Feeding Operations" will be held May 19-21, 2008 in Des Moines, Iowa at the Hotel Fort Des Moines.

Man-Made conveyances and Medium CAFO Designation:

If discharge from an open lot is entering a tile intake or tile line it is considered a discharge to a water of the state. Tile lines or intakes are considered a man-made conveyance, so if a lot has 300 to 999 animals and discharges to a tile then they must eliminate the tile intake or obtain an NPDES permit. Work with and educate producers to eliminate these discharges. Work continues on the small open lot plan. In the meantime go ahead and work with producers that have problems. The plan is totally voluntary, but do not wait for producers to volunteer, go ahead towards compliance, controls and proper management to eliminate any potential environmental problems.

Web Page Review:

It is now time to review the AFO web pages. Karen will be leading this with the following people assigned to review:

Confinement Construction- Ted Petersen and Bob Palla

Open Lot Construction-Paul Petitti and Dan Olson

MMP Section-Tom McCarthy

MAC- Jeff Prier and Jennifer Christian

Land Application Section-Josh Sobaski

NMP Section-Jeremy Klatt and Cindy Martens

Ag Video Conference Notes
December 19, 2007
Page 2

Karen has also found some additional Web pages that will need reviewing. She will send a reminder note with the specific url of pages listed for review. This review needs to be done by January 20th. Please work to reduce the text and add more links to forms, instructions, etc., that already exist.

NPDES and NMPs

The NMP must reflect the maximum capacity for a feedlot, which means the number they were permitted for, not the number they stock at. If permitted for 10,000 head, the NMP must be for 10,000 head. Permits will need to be written for sites having both confinement and open lot cattle with a combined animal unit count over 1,000. Example 800 open lot cattle and 400 in confinement, these will need to have NPDES permits under Federal rules. Gene and Randy will be working with NPDES staff to get this moving forward.

Legal Update

Randy reported that he is currently working on the de-delegation response to EPA regarding the NPDES permitting program for Iowa. This is due to the enforcement and statute differences IA has compared to the Federal laws. This may push some law changes in the near future.

MAC legislation continues to move forward.

MMP Kaizen

Eric reported that there has been interest from the producer groups to revisit the MMP Kaizen this winter. Eric will work with the participants and Theresa McMahon to set up a meeting in February. There will be a strong possibility that this meeting will be done over the video conferencing network.

NMP Inspection form is almost finished and should be finalized by early January. When it is done it will be sent to all field offices and posted on the web page. This should be used as an attachment to the NPDES inspection form for open lots. The NPDES form is final and will be posted on the website soon. It was previously distributed to the field offices last month. Field office staff will be doing 48 open lot NPDES inspections over the next 2 years. Work requests from Des Moines can count towards these 48 as long as a complete NPDES and NMP inspection is done.

AT Sites will be inspected every 2 years. Please be sure to communicate with Paul Petitti when you are assigned an AT site to go over monitoring, records, etc. This involves FO#3, 4 and 5. AT inspections must be entered into the NPDES database as well as the AFO database. Offices are also reminded that there is a Geo Review tab in the NPDES database where the AT monitoring should be recorded.

SAFOs and the database-please make sure that all SAFOs are added to the AFO database as you are called out on complaints, etc. This information can be invaluable in certain cases and it doesn't take very long to add a new site.

Electronic MMP Submittals-There was some discussion to move forward in accepting MMPs electronically. Gene and others will continue to work on this, but we are not comfortably ready for that transition right now. The new databases will possibly make this transition much easier.

Ag Video Conference Notes

December 19, 2007

Page 3

ISU recommendations for Nitrogen-a committee of Gene, Eric and Ted will be working on a recommendation to bring forward to the Ag group in January or February. This is based on ISU N recommendations not being based on yield goals, but on economics. This is much harder to enforce and it doesn't address environmental compliance. You can read more at the following link:

<http://extension.agron.iastate.edu/soilfertility/nutrienttopics/nutrienttopics.html>

PM2015 is the primary publication to explain this regional method, but there are other publications here you might be interested in. Under the "links" section at the bottom of this page is the N Rate Calculator, which you can use to see how the N rate recommendations are determined.

If you want to be part of this committee or have comments, please contact Gene Tinker.

The next Ag Video Conference will be on **Thursday January 17th at 9 a.m.** Please mark your calendars.

Submitted by Cindy Martens